

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)



## Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

# September 6, 2022

VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT:** Barbara Bennett, Chair, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, presiding, Scott Chase, Ken Collins, Kes Tautvydas, Alexandra Plumb, Andi Kopit, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

**ABSENT:** Note if notified or un-notified - Ed Halloran, (un-notified)

**VISITORS:** James Watson, WICD, Clea Barenburg, IC Water Quality, Lachlan Pope, Public

**CALL TO ORDER:** Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Jill moved to approve the agenda. Ken seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Barbara moved to approve the September 6, 2022 minutes. Alex seconded. The minutes were approved.

### TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**LEADERSHIP REPORTS:** Leadership Reports – None

### NO ANCHOR ZONE:

- The Jefferson County MRC has had a voluntary no anchor zone since 2004. They placed buoys that delineates the outer edge of the eelgrass beds to encourage boaters to anchor seaward of the marker buoys. This is to help prevent eelgrass damage by boat anchor scour and drag. Jefferson MRC has monitored during big boating events like the Wooden Boat Festival, and they had 98 to 99% compliance in the no anchor zone.
- The NWSC has been working with MRC's to build this up to an Initiative wide regional project. Similar to how the Bull kelp project and Forage fish projects are regionally coordinated by the NWSC.
- Cornet Bay has been mentioned as a potential site. The NWSC is in phase one of this project. They would help with permitting and other planning details. The Island MRC will be responsible after installation of the buoys.

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)

- The next step for the Island MRC if interested is to have someone monitor the boat usage in Cornet Bay. The NWS has developed a data sheet and protocol for the boat use survey. The information from this survey would help to inform if or how the layout of a no anchor zone would be successful.
- Our MRC decided to take the month to think about this project. Kelly reminded the committee that we need a volunteer to be a project champion if we choose to move forward.

## COORDINATOR UPDATE:

- We are hosting a volunteer appreciation gathering at Bowman Bay to thank our hard-working volunteers on projects such as Bull kelp and Forage fish. This will be held on 9/18 at 11:30 am.
- NWSC Conservation Collaboration event on 9/16 at Padilla Bay.
- Proposals are due at the end of September for the Congressional Funding.
- Whidbey Weekly Article will be written about Derelict Vessels especially focused on prevention.
- Discover Our Island Shores – A few teachers requested these resources after we sent an introductory email out to local school principals. There is an art contest option for teachers that want to participate.
- Recruitment letters (for MRC members) have gone out to the Farming and Navy community.
- Hannah Liss and Gwendolyn Hannam have resigned from their positions. Our MRC will send out thank you notes to each expressing out gratitude for their work with our committee.

**LIO & MRC COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES:** The LIO is working towards updating their 5-year plan. Barb and Kelly met with Jenn to discuss ways we can support the LIO through education. The information below was provided as the language that will be used in the plan regarding the MRC's involvement.

Inform and educate local decision makers on the work of the LIO

- Work with LIO committee members to determine opportunities to inform and educate the community, local, regional, and/or state-level decision makers on the work of the LIO, including the LIO Plan and the associated gaps, barriers, and ongoing programs.
- Island LIO will partner with our local MRC to educate local decision-makers on:  
deficiencies in enforcement and compliance;  
regulatory inconsistencies and lag between old and new regulation adoption (i.e., comprehensive plan revisions);  
policy effectiveness unclear or unknown;  
current law insufficient (doesn't match local needs; inequitable; too many exceptions);  
learn from other LIOs and counties to identify the best strategies;  
lack of adequate policy incentives and/or disincentives; and  
other barriers, gaps, and needs identified within the LIO plan.

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)

- Attend local, regional, and state-level decision-maker workgroups and/or forums to contribute and discuss LIO data gaps, barriers, needs, and LIO initiatives.

Catalyze implementation of high-priority public engagement, awareness raising, behavior change, incentive, and/or compliance projects and programs identified in the LIO Plan and/or Action Agenda

- Support the local ecosystem recovery outreach network or similar groups. This task is intended to target the Education, Communication, and Outreach Network (ECO Net) within the LIO area or the pre-existing equivalent and to advance and catalyze implementation of LIO Plan priority public engagement, awareness raising, incentive, and/or compliance projects and programs within the LIO.
- Including:

Identify alignment between the LIO Plan and the local outreach network, through conversation with local outreach and educational network.

Within the LIO Plan, identify if there are key barriers or gaps to making progress in LIO ecosystem recovery relating to public engagement, awareness raising, incentive, and/or compliance projects and programs, and coordinate with key Partnership staff to identify opportunities within the LIO (and outside of the LIO) to address gaps or remove.

Enable local outreach networks to operate as subcommittees of the respective LIO—work of the local outreach network/ECO Net within this LIO contract should support local LE and LIO Plans.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.